



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS
STATE TREASURER

DATE: September 1, 2021
TO: House and Senate K-12 Appropriations Committees
FROM: Rachael Eubanks, State Treasurer *Rachael Eubanks*
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report - Deficit School Districts Pursuant to MCL 380.1220 (2)

Dear Legislators:

Attached is a copy of the Quarterly Report of Deficit School Districts for the first quarter of FY2021-22. The report is submitted pursuant to Public Act 111 of 2015, the Revised School Code Section 1220 (2) that provides the State Treasurer shall submit quarterly interim reports to the legislature concerning school districts, ISDs, and PSAs that are subject to periodic financial status reports or are under an Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan (EDEP).

If you have additional questions about this report or other related questions concerning the information in this report, please contact this office.

Attachments: Executive Summary Report

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Aaron Keel, Director of Legislative Affairs
Heather Frick, Interim Deputy State Treasurer, State and Local Finance
Jessica M. Thomas, Administrator, School Review and Fiscal Accountability



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to MCL 380.1220 within the Revised School Code, the State Treasurer shall submit quarterly interim reports to the legislature concerning K-12 school districts, Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), and Public School Academies (PSAs) that are subject to periodic financial status reports or are under an Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan (EDEP). This is the Michigan Department of Treasury's ("the Department") fourth quarterly report for FY2021-22 to the Michigan Legislature where an analysis of FY 2019-20 audited financial data has been completed for all school districts.

On July 7, 2015, then-Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law Public Acts 109-114, giving the Department additional financial authority and responsibilities over K-12 school districts, ISDs, and PSAs facing fiscal distress. Pursuant to MCL 380.1219(3), the State Treasurer is required to determine whether potential fiscal stress exists within a school district, ISD, or PSA. Per statute, conditions of fiscal stress may include but are not limited to; (1) An operating deficit within a school district, ISD, or PSA during the current school fiscal year or the following two school fiscal years (2) A district's inability to meet its financial obligations while also satisfying the districts, ISDs, or PSAs obligations to provide public education services in a manner that complies with state law.

The School Review and Fiscal Accountability Division (SRFA) within the Department is responsible for analyzing the financial health of Michigan's 893 active school districts while working closely with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). The Department has developed a process to identify fiscal stress by closely monitoring data collected from the districts audited financial statements, adopted budget, State Aid Status Reports, Financial Information Database (FID), and Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). The following is a summary of school districts under Department oversight as of September 1, 2021.

EARLY WARNING DISTRICTS

Table 1 below is a complete list of districts showing signs of potential fiscal stress pursuant to Early Warning legislation, including the year they were identified. Since the June 2021 Quarterly Report, there are eight (8) new additions that were identified based on general fund balance and enrollment trends. Table 1 totals eighteen (18) districts: ten (10) PSAs and eight (8) LEAs. The fiscal health of these Early Warning districts will be re-evaluated upon receipt of their independent financial statement audits.

TABLE 1: FY2021 EARLY WARNING DISTRICTS			
	School District/PSA	Intermediate School District (Management Company)	Year Identified
1	Flat River Academy	Saginaw Valley State University (Midwest Schools Services, Inc.)	2016
2	Multicultural Academy	Bay Mills Community College (Universal Management Company, LLC)	2016
3	Clintondale Community Schools	Macomb ISD	2019
4	Canton Preparatory High School	Grand Valley State University (National Heritage Academies, Inc.)	2020
5	Comstock Public Schools	Kalamazoo RESA	2020
6	The School District of the City of Harper Woods	Wayne RESA	2020
7	International Academy of Saginaw	Bay Mills Community College (Educational Partnerships, Inc)	2020
8	Ridge Park Charter Academy	Lake Superior State University (National Heritage Academies, Inc.)	2020
9	Taylor Preparatory High School	Grand Valley State University (National Heritage Academies, Inc.)	2020
10	Wellspring Preparatory High School	Bay Mills Community College (National Heritage Academies, Inc.)	2020
11	Anchor Bay School District	Macomb ISD	2021
12	Arts Academy in the Woods	Macomb ISD (Self-Managed)	2021
13	Covenant House Academy Detroit	Grand Valley State University (Youth Vision Solutions)	2021
14	Faxon Academy	Saginaw Valley State University (GPS)	2021
15	Ironwood Area Schools of Gogebic County	Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD	2021
16	Mount Clemens Community School District	Macomb ISD	2021
17	New Haven Community Schools	Macomb ISD	2021
18	Pittsford Area Schools	Hillsdale ISD	2021

Table 2 below outlines the statistics of all districts that have been required to report to the Department since the enactment of Public Act 109-113 of 2015.

TABLE 2: EARLY WARNING DISTRICT STATISTICS							
District Status	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	Total
Total Declarations of Potential Fiscal Stress	19	8	7	16	10	8	68
Districts Remaining in Oversight	2	0	0	1	7	8	18
Districts Released from Oversight	15	5	3	6	0	6	35
Deficit Districts Identified ¹	2	2	2	3	2	TBD	11
District Closed After Potential Fiscal Stress Identified	0	1	2	1	0	0	4

Note 1: Districts identified by the Department as showing signs of potential fiscal stress that ended the year with a general fund deficit.

Note 2: Treasury is reviewing FY 2020-21 data for declarations of potential fiscal stress and/or district removals from Department oversight

ENHANCED DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN (EDEP) DISTRICTS

Pursuant to MCL §380.1220(5), a K-12 school district, ISD, or PSA that has not eliminated its deficit within 5 years after the initial deficit elimination plan (DEP) is required to submit an Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan (EDEP) to the Department of Treasury. A district may also be required to submit an EDEP if subjected to “rapidly deteriorating” financial circumstances.

Table 3 represents a complete list of EDEP districts under Department oversight and contains a total of eight (8) districts categorized as: Two (2) PSAs and six (6) LEAs. Since the June 2021 Quarterly Report, there have been no changes to this list. Of note, four districts have projected a positive general fund balance at the close of FY2020-21: Vanderbilt Area Schools, Benton Harbor Area Schools, Pontiac Community Schools, and Flint Community Schools. Fiscal health of EDEP districts will be reevaluated upon receipt of the independent financial statement audits.

TABLE 3: FY2021 EDEP DISTRICTS					
	School District/PSA	ISD or Authorizer (Management Co.)	July 2021 Enrollment	FY 2020 Audited GF Balance	FY 2021 Projected GF Balance
1	Vanderbilt Area Schools	Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD	82	\$(39,146)	\$285,359
2	South Lake Schools	Macomb ISD	1,614	\$(2,319,328)	\$(374,400)
3	Detroit Public Safety Academy	Eastern Michigan University (The Leona Group)	219	\$(510,317)	\$(407,669)
4	Bay City Academy	Lake Superior State University (Mitten Educational Mgmt)	407	\$(811,258)	\$(250,593)

TABLE 3: FY2021 EDEP DISTRICTS

	School District/PSA	ISD or Authorizer (Management Co.)	July 2021 Enrollment	FY 2020 Audited GF Balance	FY 2021 Projected GF Balance
5	Pinckney Community Schools	Livingston ESA	2,413	\$(1,967,697)	\$(323,748)
6	Benton Harbor Area Schools	Berrien RESA	1,772	\$(1,215,316)	\$59,684
7	Pontiac City School District	Oakland Schools	3,870	\$(1,900,416)	\$2,908,564
8	Flint, School District of the City of	Genesee ISD	3,624	\$11,856,105	\$28,717,808

Note 1: The column titled “FY2021 Projected GF Balance” represents the estimates as approved by the District Board of Education.

Note 2: The July State Aid Enrollment projections have been adjusted to reflect the “Super Blend” calculation.

PUBLIC ACT 436 OF 2012

Public Act 436 of 2012 provides criteria in determining the financial condition, specifically, the existence of a financial emergency, within a local unit of government or school district. MCL 141.1563 of the statute states that the Governor may appoint a Receivership Transition Advisory Board (RTAB) to monitor the affairs until the receivership is terminated.

Since the June 2021 Quarterly Report, there was one district subject to an RTAB. On July 19, 2021, Governor Whitmer terminated the receivership of the School District of the City of Muskegon Heights and dissolved the Receivership Transition Advisory Board for the District under Public Act 436 of 2012. The district’s current financial position is poised to help move the Muskegon Heights Public School District forward. As of the September 2021 report, there are zero districts subject to an RTAB as defined in statute.